

CITY COUNCIL

Tad Miller
Dario Notti
Mike O'Brien
Agnes Phillips, Mayor
Ruth Richardson
Stanley Rodgers
Thor Williams



CITY MANAGER
Ken Weaver

CITY CLERK
L.J. Warren

City of Bethel
Regular Council Meeting Minutes
September 9, 1997

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was convened at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Phillips at the Log Cabin, Bethel, Alaska.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Miller, Notti, Phillips, Rodgers, Williams
Absent: O'Brien (excused), Richardson (excused)

Also present: City Manager Ken Weaver, City Clerk L.J. Warren, 6 in the audience.

III. PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Dave Trantham, Bethel, pointed out a new sandpad on Ptarmigan Road which has not been culverted and is causing standing water, and requested information on how the City would run a package store if the local option question is approved by the voters.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Williams to approve the minutes of the August 26, 1997 regular meeting, as presented.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Phillips added New Business Item G, Resolution #97-40. Council member Miller tabled New Business Item C, Discussion - Putting Bethel on the Map, and added New Business Item H, Discussion - KYUK broadcast of Council meetings.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Miller to approve the agenda as amended.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Phillips thanked all of the people and local businesses who helped make the Seawall Dedication ceremony and 40th municipal birthday a big success.

Next, Mayor Phillips appointed Tania Oh to the Transportation Commission.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Williams to ratify the appointment of Tania Oh to the Transportation Commission.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Phillips made note of the Resolution adopted by the Public Safety Commission with regards to the local option election, and asked the clerk to list each of the propositions that will be on the ballot.

Mayor Phillips pointed out the information from DCRA indicating that they estimate population to be 5,277. Council member Miller expressed his skepticism about this estimate, noting that housing continues to be constructed in Bethel and the population is probably higher than DCRA's estimate.

The City Clerk was directed to prepare a Resolution for the September 23 meeting with regards to the PILT program.

VII. MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Weaver referred Council to the written reports, and discussed the following:

- ICMA Conference - Mr. Weaver noted that he will be out of the office to attend the annual ICMA conference in Vancouver, B.C., September 12-22, 1997.
- Courthouse Lease - The Council had previously authorized a higher lease rate, of \$14,345 month. However, Alaska Court System officials notified the City that our increase had come too late to be included in their annual budget request, therefore, they could not pay the higher lease. The former Finance Director and City Attorney have recommended that the City extend the old lease rate through November of 1998. This will give the Department adequate time to include the increased rent in their FY99 budget request.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Williams to renew the lease at the previous rate with the condition that the Alaska Court System budget now for a rent increase in November 1998, and that they make a commitment to lease space in the Braund Building after it is renovated, so that the City can plan accordingly.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Department Head Positions - Several finalists have been selected for interviews for the Public Works Director position. The application period for the Finance Director position will close on Friday, September 12.
- Mission Drive Sewer Line Repairs - The closing date for the bids is September 17. Due to the nature of the project and the necessity to have the work completed this fall, Mr. Weaver requested that the Council authorize him to award the contract as soon as a recommendation of award is made by CRW Engineering, the company that developed the scope of work for the project.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to authorize the City Manager to award the contract for the Mission Drive sewer line repairs, as soon as a recommendation of award is made by CRW Engineering.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Soil Freezeback for Water Storage Tank Bids: Bids were received for soil freezeback work for the Bethel Heights water storage tank. A memo from the Purchasing Agent noted that CRW Engineering had recommended award to Collins Construction of Wasilla, the low bidder.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Notti to award the contract for soil freezeback work for the Bethel Heights water storage tank, to Collins Construction, in the amount of \$139,425.

motion S/M by Williams, 2nd by Miller to amend the main motion by stipulating that Collins Construction must have all required insurance and bonding in place before the award is made.

vote Voice vote on S/M. Motion carried, 4-yes, 1-No (Williams)

vote Voice vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

- Purchase of manlift for Public Works shop: Wayne Smith, Administrative Assistant at Public Works, explained the need for the manlift. The manlift is offered for sale by Klebs Mechanical, the company that performed the OSHA repairs at the shop. A budget amendment authorizing the purchase is included in Ordinance #97-25, which is scheduled for Old Business Item B.
- Curfew Siren - the siren is installed, and a new timer (which will allow for alarm blasts less than a minute in duration) has been ordered.
- Laundromat fuel spill - a memo from the City Attorney, stating that the tenant's insurance should pay for the damages, was distributed to the Council. Council member Rodgers stated that he would donate 5 rolls of fencing to the City, to help keep children away from the fuel tank.
- Sand for LKSD softball fields - LKSD has asked the City to donate 1,400 loads of sand fill from the lagoon project stockpile. They will contract for the hauling of the material to the fields.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Notti to approve the donation to LKSD of 1,400 loads of sand fill from the lagoon project stockpile, provided that LKSD provides for hauling.

vote Voice vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

- Agreement with Bethel Recycling Project - the previous agreement between the City and BRP has expired. The new agreement is identical in substance, but will be for a four-year, rather than two-year, term.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Williams to ratify the agreement between the City and BRP.

vote Voice vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

- Water/Sewer code enforcement - Council member Miller initiated a discussion about enforcement of water and sewer ordinances. City Manager Weaver noted that the original, proposed deadline of August 15, 1997, has been extended to August 15, 1998. However, the City has stated its right to enforce the law, and is working with homeowners to persuade them to upgrade their sewage systems. There are currently 200-300 violations in the City, and each situation is unique.
- New traffic patterns at Watson's corners - Council member Miller requested that the City issue press releases and public service announcements about the new traffic pattern at Watson's Corners.

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES and COMMISSIONS

The City Clerk read the recommendations for the record.

Finance Committee: Mayor Phillips reported that the Committee canceled their scheduled meeting due to travel by Committee members.

Planning Commission: Council member Notti reported that the Commission canceled their scheduled meeting due to travel by Commission members.

Port Commission: Council member Rodgers reported that the Commission will not meet until next quarter, unless called by the chairman or 3 commissioners.

Public Works Committee: Council member O'Brien being absent, the report was given by Wayne Smith, Acting Public Works Director. The Committee recommended that the City investigate the use of Soil Sement on the roads. Dave Trantham, in reponse to a question from the Council, noted that Soil Sement had been used in the 1960's, and did not work on Bethel roads.

Public Safety Commission: Council member Richardson being absent, Police Chief Eilers reported that the Commission had a productive meeting and discussed several topics.

Transportation Commission: Council member Williams reported that there are 78 taxis in town, down from 93 in January. The Commission is now ready to begin discussing a new permitting process, and would like Council approval to give the Anchorage taxi ordinances to the City Attorney for review and drafting a a new process for Bethel.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Miller to give the Anchorage taxi law on new permits to the City Attorney for review.

City Manager Weaver noted that the Council should decide as a group, what their overall policy is about the taxi industry, and what goals they have for the industry. Discussion by the Council followed.

vote Voice vote on M/M. Motion carried, 4-Yes, 1-No (Notti).

Youth Services Committee: Council member Miller reported that the next scheduled meeting is 9/11.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Item A: Public Hearing on Ordinance #97-23, BMC Chapter on PATC Board

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing. Seeing and hearing no one to speak, Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing and asked for Council comment.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Ordinance #97-23.

vote Roll vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item B: Public Hearing on Ordinance #97-25, Amending the FY98 Budget

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing. Seeing and hearing no one to speak, Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing and asked for Council comment. The City Clerk noted that the ordinance

had been introduced with some missing information, which has now been supplied, and that an additional budget modification would need to be added to the ordinance if the Council wished to authorize the purchase of the manlift from Klebs Mechanical.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to amend Ordinance #97-25, by adding the following amounts to Budget Modification #98-06:

| | | |
|-------------|--|-------------|
| 221-000 | Delete Range 8 NTS Program Coordinator | \$51,908.00 |
| 221-000 | Add Range 2 NTS Driver/Program Aide (30 hrs./wk) | -29,625.00 |
| 221-000 | Add Range 4 NTS Secretary/Recept. (30 hrs./wk) | -30,115.00 |
| 221-000-490 | Increase General Fund Contribution to NTS | 7,832.00 |

And by adding Budget Modification #98-07, as follows:

| | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| 100-310-690 | Purchase of manlift for Public Works Shop | \$-8,500.00 |
|-------------|---|-------------|

vote Voice vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Williams to adopt Ordinance #97-25, as amended.

vote Roll call vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item C: Public Hearing on Ordinance #97-26, Amending the Classification Plan

Mayor Phillips opened the public hearing. Seeing and hearing no one to speak, Mayor Phillips closed the public hearing and asked for Council comment.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to adopt Ordinance #97-26.

vote Roll call vote on M/M. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item D: Discussion - Dario Notti vehicle claim

City Manager Weaver reviewed the information that had been received from the City's insurance adjusters. Dave Trantham addressed the Council with his comments on the issue. Council member Notti presented his view of the issue. Council discussion followed.

motion M/M by Miller, to pay Mr. Notti the amount of money indicated on page 90 of the Council packet (\$6,272.38).

no second Motion failed for lack of a second.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to pay Mr. Notti \$4,000.00 and tow his vehicle to the auto repair shop of his choice.

vote Roll call vote. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 1-Abstain (Notti), 1-No (Williams)

The City Clerk was directed to place the matter on the September 23, 1997 regular Council agenda.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Item A: Kuskokwim Coordinated Response Partnership - Rapid Response Funds

Mayor Phillips, who requested the agenda item, explained the request from the KCRP. They would like to know if the City is willing to act as a pass-through agent should any grant funds be made available for fisheries disaster relief. City Manager Weaver responded that it would really depend on the regulations specific to each grant, but if the City were permitted to act in that capacity, they would. Mr. Weaver further noted that the City might be able to provide grant-writing assistance, depending on staff availability.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to offer support to the KCRP, to serve as a pass-through agency for potential grant funds, and to offer technical assistance as the City Manager deems appropriate.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item B: Discussion - Elsie Active Land Dispute

Council member Miller, who requested the agenda item, explained the request from Elsie Active. The city road encroaches on her property, and she deserves some type of compensation from the City for their use of her land. City manager Weaver noted that there are several more similar situations in the original townsite area. Council discussion followed.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Rodgers to direct the City Manager to initiate the resolution of City trespass on private property throughout Bethel, beginning with the Elsie Active site, and to propose solutions to the Council to resolve other trespass situations.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item C: Discussion, Putting Bethel on the Map (Miller) - removed from agenda

Item D: Resolution #97-38, Legislative and Capital Funding Priorities

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Notti to adopt Resolution #97-38.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item E: Introduction of Ordinance #97-27, Increasing Sales tax from 5% to 7%.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers to introduce Ordinance #97-27.

vote Roll call vote. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 2-No (Notti, Phillips)

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Rodgers to reconsider the questions.

vote Voice vote. Motion failed, 3-Yes, 2-No (Notti, Phillips)

Item F: Resolution #97-39, Re-classification question for October ballot.

motion M/M by Williams, 2nd by Miller to adopt Resolution #97-39.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item G: Resolution #97-40, Supporting TWC's application for an emergency housing grant.

motion M/M by Miller, 2nd by Williams to adopt Resolution #97-40.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

Item H: Discussion, radio coverage of City Council meetings.

Council member Miller, who requested the agenda item, stated that he thinks it is important that people be able to listen to the Council meetings on the radio. Mr. Miller suggested that the City offer two ways of getting the meetings on the air: either a City employee could operate the transmitting equipment, or the City could purchase a better recording system, and then provide tapes to KYUK to be aired at a later time. The City Clerk noted that she had been approached by KYKD, an FM station in town. KYKD is interested in broadcasting the meetings. The Council, noting that the meetings are public, welcomed KYKD to begin broadcasting the meetings.

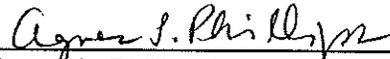
XI. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

motion M/M by Rodgers, 2nd by Williams to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

vote Voice vote. Motion carried, unanimously.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 1997.



Agnes L. Phillips, Mayor

ATTEST:



L.J. Warren, City Clerk